

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	Home Defense Units, Industrial Installations, and General Conditions in Ongjin Area	DATE DISTR.	13 January 1954	
25X1C		NO. OF PAGES	2	
[REDACTED]		REQUIREMENT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1
		REFERENCES		

25X1X THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Home Defense Units

1. In mid-September 1953 the area around Songgan-ni (N 37-52, E 125-25) (YB-1393) was guarded by a home defense guard battalion of 400 men. The three Soviet trucks which belonged to the battalion bore the [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] The battalion was equipped with anti-aircraft, anti-tank, and field guns. The commanding officer was a senior captain. Supplies were brought in at irregular intervals from Ch'wiya-ri (N 38-03, E 125-33) (YC-2414).
2. In September and October 1953 a home defense guard battalion of 400 men was stationed at Karung (N 37-55, E 125-23) (YB-096990) with the mission of guarding the beaches. The battalion had four old Soviet [REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] The unit was equipped with an undetermined number of anti-aircraft, anti-tank, and field guns.

Documentation and Travel Restrictions

3. By October 1953 new documentation had not been issued¹ though the people had had their photographs taken for new identification cards. It was rumored that when the new cards were issued, new currency would also be issued to replace the currency being used in October.
4. There were no travel restrictions for persons traveling within gun boundaries, but for gun-to-gun travel, a permit issued by the town office and countersigned by the myon or gun office was required. There was no public bus transportation in the Ongjin (N 37-56, E 125-22) (YC-0801) area, but some railroads on which civilians were allowed to travel were operating. The Ongjin-Haeju railroad was being rebuilt and was to be used for civilian and military travel.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC						
(Note)																

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Propaganda

5. North Korean authorities told the people that North Korea had won a great victory but that a greater victory was in store. If victory were not won at the truce table, it would be necessary for North Korea to push south to drive the Americans from the country.²

Commodity Prices

6. In the Ongjin area the legal price for one mal³ of rice was 400 won, which made it difficult for farmers to purchase clothing and other commodities on which high taxes had been imposed. Four quarts of kerosene could be bartered for 100 pounds of rice, one quart of lube oil for 18 pounds of rice, and one 55-gallon drum of gasoline for 500 pounds of rice. After the cease-fire more goods were available on the market but at very high prices. Only the wealthy could afford the Chinese clothing available. Chinese sneakers were a popular item.⁴

Gold Mine and Power Plant

7. North of Ongjin a gold mine at N 37-57, E 125-22 (YC-075030) resumed limited operations. A power plant in the same area also resumed operations and was supplying power for Ongjin and vicinity.

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1. [] Comment. According to [] from another source, on 25 September 1953 the North Korean government was delaying the issuance of new citizenship certificates throughout North Korea.

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2. [] Comment. Communists believed the propaganda, but many people neither liked nor believed it.

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3. [] Comment. A small mal, the equivalent of a little less than 15 pounds of rice, was probably intended here.

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4. [] Comment. [] from another source, for the prices of food and other commodities in the Ongjin area in October 1953.

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